

P

1

THOUGHTS
ON
EMIGRATION,
FROM
GREAT BRITAIN
TO HER POSSESSIONS IN
NORTH AMERICA,
AS IT WOULD AFFECT THE
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA :
IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO
LIEUT. COL. COCKBURN.



PRINTED BY
HOWE & SPIRE,
AT THE
ACADIAN OFFICE.
1827.

STYLOTYPE

THE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

STYLOTYPE

TE

S

IT is
Miss
larly rela
rected to
Governm
Majesty
afford,
Emigran

If I
necessary
of every
soil, whe
tation, to
even at th



THOUGHTS ON EMIGRATION.



S I R,

IT is currently reported and believed that the Mission with which you are charged, particularly relates to Emigration, and that you are directed to make enquiries, under the authority of Government, respecting the Capabilities which His Majesty's Provinces in North America are likely to afford, for the maintenance and settlement of Emigrants.

If I am right in my conjecture, no apology is necessary for addressing you, as I hold it the duty of every one, and especially of every lover of the soil, when a question of such importance is in agitation, to throw any light he can on the subject, even at the risk of exposing the nakedness of the
Land.

Land. You will, however, believe me more sincere, when I assure you, that I am actuated by a more selfish motive, namely, the fear I entertain, lest you should imbibe notions respecting the Resources of this Country, that might tend ultimately to the misery of thousands, and in which our own little Community would be sure to participate.

The enlightened policy and benignant views of the Parent Country cannot be mistaken : she is equally anxious for the prosperity of all her children, whether on this side of the Atlantic or on the other : she is desirous of relieving herself of a superabundant population, by transporting a portion of it to her Colonies, which are thinly inhabited, and only wishes to ascertain the best means of carrying her benevolent intentions into effect. That such is her object no one can reasonably doubt, and if the Emigration is conducted on principles of prudence and sound judgment, the result cannot but prove (generally speaking) highly beneficial to these Provinces.

It is my intention, however, to speak only as regards one of them, the Peninsula of Nova-Scotia; a Country well known, and whose Coast was accurately surveyed, and in a great measure settled, long before the foot of a European had left its print in the wilds of Upper Canada, or in the Forests of New Brunswick. It cannot, therefore, be a matter of surprise if in this Province, (comparatively small and seabound) you find almost every spot, at all calculated for Cultivation, already occupied

pied, of. I Crown purposes ness w stream will loc bourho or on t Mary? die, th Rivers fertile location or on t you wi bound remarl little in of Gra unfit fo is true, and we instead consid

In Strang some o for ins ons I search would

pied, and all the best Land in the Country disposed of. It is true thousands of Acres still remain to the Crown, unappropriated ; but, if fit for Agricultural purposes, they must be sought for in the Wilderness where no track or path exists, or fertilizing stream to convey the produce to the Coast. You will look in vain for ungranted Lands in the neighbourhood of Windsor, Cornwallis and Annapolis, or on the Rivers which empty themselves into St. Mary's Bay. Trace the course of the Shubenacadie, the Musquodohoit, the Stewiacke, the Truro Rivers and River Philip, and you will find their fertile banks already in occupation. Apply for a location on the Marshes of Cumberland, at Pictou, or on the best part of our Northern Coast, and you will be told it is all private property. Of our boundary on the Atlantic, it will be sufficient to remark, that from Cape Canso to Cape Sable, with little intermission, the land (if indeed huge masses of Granite can bear that denomination) is totally unfit for Agriculture. Its numerous harbours, it is true, are admirably adapted for fishing stations, and were we to expect an importation of Fishers, instead of Weavers, would well deserve our serious consideration.

In thus addressing you publicly, and as a Stranger, it is necessary that I should anticipate some questions which you would naturally ask me ; for instance, such as my authority for the assertions I have made ; I might answer, from strict research in the Surveyor General's Office, but that would be a falsehood. With some truth I might
 aver

ever, that they are the result of my own observation and enquiry ; but I prefer giving you a more convincing proof, and will therefore tell you that they are the result of experience, of dear bought experience to many.

Although direct and encouraged Emigration from the Mother Country to this, is a scheme something new to us, the formation of Settlements is by no means so. We have had four within the last twelve years, the Sherbrooke and Dalhousie (Military Settlements) Hammond Plains and Preston (Black Settlements). That at Sherbrooke was formed in 1816, when the Officer whose name it bears was Lieutenant Governor of the Province ; it was principally composed of disbanded Soldiers from the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Regiments, which were reduced in this Country. The Dalhousie Settlement was laid out two or three years after, under the auspices of our present Governor in Chief, on the disbandment of the 98th Regiment, which also took place here. The Settlers of both received great encouragement from Government : for eighteen months or two years, Provisions were gratuitously furnished them and their families, and many of them became Out Pensioners of Chelsea Hospita^l, an advantage which poor Emigrants from the North of England or South of Ireland, cannot expect to enjoy. The Settlements at Hammond Plains and Preston, that I have denominated "*Black Settlements*," are composed of the Negro Slaves which were carried off from the Coasts of the Southern States during the last

last An
and ma
vince o
way of
whom
States,
of Ind
Mighty
firmest
Devils
the So
would
are a q
remark
rather
for illa
more g
abduct
took pl
vernme
made r
allotted
hired V
ever, t
ed, the
lated a
sent ba

* " T
" Unite
" has p
" entire
" Conve

last American War by Sir Alexander Cochrane and made a present by that Admiral to the Province of Nova Scotia : (It may be mentioned by way of parenthesis, that these are the Gentry for whom John Bull has lately paid to the United States, the good round sum of £300,000 * by way of Indemnification; such was the Decree of the Mighty Autocrat of the North, the President's *firmest but most distant Ally.*) These poor shivering Devils have striven hard, with the barrenness of the Soil, and Inclemency of the Climate, and it would be injustice, were I not to add, that they are a quiet, industrious and sober Race. I must remark by the way, that it is their own fault (or rather the fault of designing and mischievous people for illadvising them) that they are not in a Climate more genial to their birth and habits. When this abduction, or whatever name you please to give it, took place, and no remedy could be applied, Government determined on sending them to Trinidad, made most liberal arrangements for that purpose, allotted them portions of Land in the Island, and hired Vessels for their conveyance : before, however, this beneficial measure could be accomplished, the idea got among them (or rather was circulated as I before observed) that they were to be sent back to their old Masters, or landed in some
part

* "The Slave Convention having been ratified by the United States, His Majesty's Minister, Mr. Vaughan, has paid over to Mr. Clay \$600,000 or one *half* of the entire Sum, agreeable to the 3d Article of the said Convention."—New York Albion, 20th Jan. 1827.

part of the West Indies, where they would again become Slaves ; the consequence was, that very few of them would embark, and here they remain to this day, a burden on the Community at large. It is hardly known how these poor creatures manage to subsist, especially at Preston, where the Land is much worse than at the other Settlement : in the Summer you may see them by dozens in Halifax, having come eight or ten miles to sell a few berries, the produce of the woods, or Tubs and Brooms of their own manufacture, on which traffic they mostly depend; their distress is, however, so well known here, that charity is administered to them with an open hand, otherwise their lot would be most deplorable indeed. If your time would admit, I would advise you to visit these Settlements ; three of them are within a day's ride of Halifax : take a list of the original Settlers ; enumerate those that remain ; examine the Soil, and draw your own conclusions. If you are not disposed for ocular proof, I hardly know where to refer you : these spots are little visited ; our principal and best informed Natives are not much addicted to Travel, and seldom leave the "High" for the "Bye" Way. I believe you must apply to the Disciples of old Isaac Walton, and they are mostly among the Officers of the Garrison, for if our old Patricians have but a slight spice of the "Viator" in them, they have still less of the "Piscator." Should these Settlements not be found in a prosperous state, after more than ten years trial, you will naturally seek for the cause. Can it be that no trouble

trouble
I say,
are a s
afford
wantin
impose
and ho
does i
denial
me, th
chance
the lib
extends
profusi
nities a
nature
bits of
of Spir
dexter

I t
that thi
on an ex
less are
looked,
tages, v
at prese
nesty, a
and Tow
their loc

† Whe
Assembly

Trouble was taken in the selection of the Land?—
 I say, impossible, the very names of two of them
 are a sufficient denial to the supposition, and would
 afford an ample guarantee, were all other proof
 wanting. But these Personages may have been
 imposed upon?—Still impossible—a more upright
 and honorable Man, than the Surveyor General,
 does not exist. If, therefore, I am right in the
 denial of both suppositions, you must allow with
 me, that future Settlements will stand no better
 chance of success in this Country; unless indeed,
 the liberality of Government in their formation,
 extends to what might be considered to border on
 profusion. It matters little whether these Commu-
 nities are formed of Soldiers or Mechanics, human
 nature will be found alike, and the pernicious ha-
 bits of our old Inhabitants in the immoderate use
 of Spirits, will be much sooner acquired, than their
 dexterity in handling the Axe.

I think I have said enough, at least, to prove
 that this is not a Country calculated for Emigration
 on an extensive scale.—There may be, and doubt-
 less are, spots of Crown Lands, which I have over-
 looked, where a few Settlers, with common advan-
 tages, would be likely to prosper. If so, there is
 at present a body of Men at Halifax,† Men of ho-
 nesty, ability and intelligence, from every County
 and Township in the Province, well qualified from
 their local knowledge, to afford you ample infor-
 mation

† When this Letter was sent to the press, the House of
 Assembly was sitting.—Editor.

mation of a practical nature; and should your views extend to more scientific research, a short walk will conduct you to a humble Cottage in the Dutch Village, where a self taught Geologist and Botanist, is to be found in the person of the unpretending and unassuming "Titus Smith." This Genius of the Forest has traversed the Wilds of Nova Scotia in every direction; to him I refer you for information respecting its Soil and natural productions.

Although I have endeavoured to prove that this Province is not calculated for the reception of annual Importations of Emigrants, let it not be imagined that it is my intention to argue that we have already a sufficient Population. To remove such an impression, it will be necessary for me to state, what Class of Persons I conceive would benefit both themselves and the Province, by their Emigration to it.

They are certainly not altogether of a description entitled to look up to Government for pecuniary assistance. The Emigrants I wish to see here, are small Capitalists, industrious men, with industrious families, bringing in ready money from £500 to £1000. A man so circumstanced, would prosper, and in a few years, become a person of consideration and property: he would not apply to Government for a Grant of Wilderness Land, but for a trifling sum, buy (inconceivably cheap) a farm partly cleared, and under cultivation, well situated with Interval and Upland, having a House and Barn already on it:—a portion of his money would be

be appl
for com
himself
would

As
not pr
ground
"situat
"cheap
on the s
as it wi
of my m
best lan
tion, co
and by
were ult

Yo
if you m
find ho
spot wh
in hand.
cultivat
the prop
debt, 6
closure
what it
stocked,

Th
who wou
with an

be applied to stock it ; and the remainder put by for contingencies ; the labour would be done by himself and family. A person of this description would get on in Nova-Scotia.

As I have boldly made an assertion (which if not proved, would cause my theory to fall to the ground) namely that "a partly cultivated and well situated farm, can be purchased inconceivably cheap ;" it will be necessary to say a few words on the subject, which I am the more inclined to do, as it will afford no inconsiderable argument in favor of my main position, and shew, that even on the best lands, those who first undertook their cultivation, could not succeed, without borrowing money, and by mortgaging their property for this purpose, were ultimately deprived of it altogether.

You will be at no loss to ascertain this fact, and if you make the research, you will be astonished to find how few families there now are residing on the spot which their fathers or grandfathers first took in hand. You will learn that many of the farms in cultivation are more or less mortgaged, and when the proprietor can no longer pay the Interest of his debt, 6 per cent, which frequently occurs, a foreclosure takes place, and the property is sold for what it will fetch, which, as the Market is overstocked, is little enough.

There is also another description of Emigrant, who would do here very well ; for instance—a man with an industrious family, but with little or no capital,

pital, who would be content to be a Tenant instead of a Proprietor. The terms offered him would be most liberal ; for some years little or no Rent would be required ; he would be placed on a fertile soil ; his farm stocked by his landlord, and not until it became profitable, and well under cultivation, would any portion of its produce be demanded of him :—in the interim he would perhaps have acquired the wherewithal to set up for himself : this appears to be on the whole, the surest foundation an Emigrant can commence on.

Steady and hardworking men in this Country can also (at least during eight Months in the year) get high wages, sufficient, if they were provident, to support themselves and families during the Winter.

My argument is only directed against what may be called *Crown Settlers*, whom I conceive to be the poorer orders from all parts of the United Kingdom, shipped off for America, with the idea that they are to become Land Proprietors, and consequently rich people in a short time. No argument would persuade them that they had better remain as Labourers or Servants, when they have the option of becoming Masters ;—and after all, with the utmost liberality, what can Government do for them? They will be brought to this Country ; their expenses will be paid to the Township laid out to them ; portions of Land in the Wilderness allotted to them ; for the first year and a half, Salt Provisions and Bread will be issued to them, probably at the rate of

of a po
for a w
it is pos
a bag v
for Ag
gencies
these s
no info
public l
to do m

In
try with
doubt S
tageous
the fert
Brunsw
than the
forming
Quebec
Cumber
Chaleur
would c
the mo
am, ho
must re
not a C
culture
branch v
riches,
her geog
ous Har
lies hidd

of a pound of each for a man, half that quantity for a woman, and a quarter or third for a child:—it is possible a Cow may be given to each family, a bag of Potatoes for seed, and a One Pound Note for Agricultural Implements, and all other contingencies:—and on the part of Government, are not these *supposed* donations (I say *supposed*, for I have no information but what may be gleaned from the public Prints) munificent? Can she be expected to do more?

In a new Country like Upper Canada (a Country with which you are well acquainted) I have no doubt Settlements of this description can be advantageously formed on its numerous streams, and on the fertile shores of its immense Lakes. In New-Brunswick too, nothing can be more desirable, than that a good road should be made on its Coast, forming a safe communication between Halifax and Quebec in the rear of our American frontier, from Cumberland through Miramichi, to the Bay of Chaleur and the St. Lawrence; this of itself would cause Settlements to arise;—but where is the money to come from for the undertaking? I am, however, travelling on forbidden ground; so must return to Nova-Scotia, which, after all, is not a Country likely ever to become rich by Agriculture; she will never be able to compete in that branch with the Canadas or New-Brunswick. Her riches, when she gets them, will be by Commerce: her geographical position points it out; the numerous Harbours on her Coast, the mine of wealth that lies hidden in the deep on her Banks, all prove her
real

real riches to consist in her fisheries, which if supported by British Capital would soon change the face of the Country, at the same time that it provided a glorious nursery for our Seamen. It is true all this was overlooked when the Treaty of Ghent was signed, which, for the first time, surrendered gratuitously to our grasping neighbours, a right we had long maintained, that of fishing exclusively on our own Coasts. But Treaties do not last for ever. England has doubtless, ere now, seen her error, and will in time repair it. The injustice and impolicy of granting privileges to Foreign Nations at the expence of her own Colonies have not been overlooked by the enlightened Statesmen, by whose Counsel the Sceptre is now swayed.

The Acts lately passed in the British Parliament have proved to us, that the prosperity of His Majesty's Dominions however distant and scattered they may be, is no less the object of their care than that of the Parent Country itself. It is true, we may run the risk of affronting the neighbouring States, but if it is our wish to remain at peace with them, it is still more their policy to refrain from War with us. They will, doubtless, lose nothing for want of asking, and talk big, but the Confederation is not sufficiently cemented for any thing more; the state of Georgia (which lately defied the President at Washington) and other Southern States, care little about the fisheries, and the gallant Governor Troup, who so lately dared

To

‡ See Note last page.

To
Jo
might ag
war whe
cerned.

I sa
for addre
deed wit
good, an
Report
principal
the sense
that the
taken; th
ment, wh
advice, be
for such
criminate
want Chi
prentices
residence
diplomati
ther Coun

We
to Engla
should be
has been
we are,
send a po
them, wi
risk of ha

*To beard the Lion in his Den,
John Adams in his Hall;*

might again tell him that Georgia would join in no war when her own immediate interests were not concerned.

I said in the commencement, that my motive for addressing you was a selfish one ; I am not indeed without hope that the Letter itself may do good, and induce you to pause ere you frame your Report on the Resources of this Province ; my principal object is, however, that you should have the sense of the Country upon the Question, and that the People should know, that unless great care be taken, the kind intentions of a munificent Government, which wishes to confer a favour, may, by bad advice, be frustrated and turn out an Evil in the end: for such I say will be the case if Paupers are indiscriminately landed on our Coasts. Neither do we want Children to be sent to us for adoption, apprenticeship or any other visionary scheme. Your residence here will tell you that. Why (to use a diplomatic term) we could *reciprocate* with the Mother Country in that Traffic.

We shall be, as we always have been, grateful to England for favors, but rather than that they should be administered in the manner Parliament has been led to suppose the best, e'en leave us as we are, a happy and contented people. Do not send a population here, who when you cease to feed them, will become a burden to us. Do not run the risk of having the wife and family deserted by the
worthless

worthless husband, who, when means of support begin to fail, generally betakes himself to the United States, or becomes a Victim to Intemperance.

This is merely a superficial sketch of the subject; consult practical men for further information, and though it may differ from mine in minor points, our conclusions will be found the same, for I do not think they will give you advice, which is materially at variance with that you have received from a Lover of the Country and mere every day
OBSERVER.

HALIFAX, 7th APRIL, 1827.

NOTE.—The Governor of Georgia, who lately called out the Militia of the State, to resist any attempt on the part of the Executive at Washington, to enforce its Order for the surrender of certain lands to the Indians. Mr. Troop came off not only *unscathed* but triumphant, and the Indians were paid for the Lands in dispute. Query. Will not the same Game be played by Maine and Massachusetts when our Boundary Question comes to be adjusted? or can we be said to treat, on equal terms, with a Government that has not the means of enforcing its own decrees? For what relates to Georgia, see the American Papers of February last. The Documents are curious.

e-
ed
b-
i-
or
or
is
ed
y

ed
he
er
fr.
nd
y.
a-
d-
th
vn
aa